

**REGULAR MEETING OF
DIRECTORS OF BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Tuesday, April 25, 2006 7:30 PM

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ONE TWIN PINES LANE

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Lieberman, Dickenson, Feierbach, Warden, Mathewson

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim District Manager Cassingham, City Attorney Zafferano, Fire Chief Lowden, Finance

Director Fil, District Secretary Cook.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

President Mathewson stated that action was required to appropriate funds for the South County Fire Authority, and this issue arose following the posting of the agenda. He requested consideration of adding this item as an urgency issue, and it would be addressed following the other New Business Item on the agenda.

ACTION: On a motion by Director Warden, seconded by Director Feierbach, and unanimously approved by a show of hands to add a Resolution of the Belmont Fire Protection District Amending FY2006 Budget for Supplemental Appropriation Needed to Fund South County Fire Protection Authority to the agenda as an urgency item.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of February 28, 2006

ACTION: On a motion by Director Warden, seconded by Director Feierbach, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Proposed Letter of Agreement to Continue the Provision of Fire-related Services through a JPA between the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos

Interim District Manager Cassingham noted that the proposed Letter of Agreement (LOA) was the fifth draft of the document. This version was unanimously approved by the South County Fire Authority

(SCFA) Board. She noted the San Carlos City Council considered the LOA at its meeting on April 24th, but did not approve it, and requested that the SCFA Board address a number of additional issues.

She reviewed potential changes to the restated Joint Powers Authority Agreement as outlined in the revised Letter of Agreement. She commented that staff would have otherwise recommended approval of the revised LOA except for the inaction by the City of San Carlos.

Director Warden stated that all parties were aware of the contents and issues surrounding the Letter of Agreement, and it was voted on unanimously by the SCFA Board. He recommends the BFPD approve the LOA, as it provides a better foundation for a new JPA than the existing one.

Director Dickenson stated he supports the LOA as presented, but an operational audit should be performed, and recommended that this be included in the LOA. The BFPD has an obligation to the voters. He noted this could be a minor audit to be accompanied by a management letter. He is concerned regarding lost revenue because false alarms are not billed, and he would like information regarding the status of all fire equipment.

Director Warden responded that there is no time to complete an audit prior to the assessment process, which begins in August, and this issue is separate from the Letter of Agreement. He concurred that these are important issues. He does not support San Carlos's position regarding issues with the LOA.

Director Feierbach stated that the Letter of Agreement is a precursor to a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement, and an audit should be handled separately. This could be addressed with the SCFA Board.

Fire Chief Lowden stated that the LOA is on the next SCFA agenda, and this item could include a discussion regarding an audit. He noted that SCFA has discussed operational issues in general. This is a specialized area for an auditor.

Director Lieberman thanked the 2+2 committee for its work. He supports the Letter of Agreement. He stated that including specific language requiring two stations each with paramedics in each city may be too inflexible. He recommended exchanging the word "intent" with "shall" regarding this issue.

Director Warden responded that this provision was included to help the City of San Carlos, which currently does not have a paramedic at both of its stations. Staffing decisions are recommended by the Fire Chief and approved by the SCFA Board. He noted that the guarantee of level of service and minimum staffing levels will be important issues for voters in the assessment. There would always be an option to amend the JPA if future scenarios change what is agreed to at this time.

President Mathewson expressed support for the current language in the Letter of Agreement.

Director Feierbach noted that the proposal for the new JPA will include a four-year review. She also noted that the firefighters do not support the involvement of the two city managers at negotiations, but a strong and involved JPA Board is necessary.

ACTION: On a motion by Director Feierbach, seconded by Director Warden, a Letter of Agreement to Continue the Provision of Fire-related Services through a JPA between the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Resolution of the Belmont Fire Protection District Amending FY2006 Budget for Supplemental Appropriation Needed to Fund South County Fire Protection Authority

Finance Director Fil stated that this is a companion item to an action taken by the San Carlos City Council on April 24, 2006. He noted this appropriation is in the form of a loan by both cities.

ACTION: On a motion by Director Feierbach, seconded by Director Warden, Resolution 2006-2 Amending FY2006 Budget for Supplemental Appropriation Needed to Fund South County Fire Protection Authority was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:35 P.M.

Terri Cook

District Secretary

Meeting audio-recorded and videotaped
Audio Recording 636

Minutes approved 6/13/2006